0. Introduction

A. Canaanite/Ugaritic Perspective, not Mesopotamia
   - Thorkild Jacobsen, “Primitive Democracy in Mesopotamia,” *JNES* 2:3 (1943): 159-172
   - Lowell K. Handy, *Among the Host of Heaven: The Syro-Palestinian Pantheon as Bureaucracy* (Eisenbrauns, 1994)

B. Purpose

C. Summary

I. Divine Council: General Indications of Divine Plurality

A. Familiar
   - Gen 1:26; 3:22; 11:7; 28:12; 32:2

B. Less Familiar
   - Deut 33:2-4
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MT (JPS English Tanakh + my insertions)</th>
<th>Septuagint (Göttingen, NETS)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>יְהוָ֖ה המְשִׁיר הַמֻּלָּאָֽה</td>
<td>Κυρίος ἐκ Σινὰ ἤκει, καὶ ἑπέφανεν ἐκ Σηὶρ ἡμῖν καὶ κατέσπευσεν ἐξ ὀρέων Φαρὰν σὺν μυριάσιν Καδής, εἰς δεξιῶν αὐτοῦ ἄγγελοι μετ᾽ αὐτοῦ.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>לֹמָ֑ה הַסֵּפֶ֣ד מָצֲאֲרֵ֑ךְ וֹאָמְתַּ֥הְו מַרְבָּ֖בת</td>
<td>καὶ οὗτοι οἱ ἁγιασμένοι ὑπὸ τὰς χεῖράς σου καὶ οὗτοι ὑπὸ σέ εἰσιν, καὶ ἐκδέξατο ἀπὸ τῶν λόγων αὐτοῦ νόμον, ὃν ἐνετείλατο ἡμῖν Μωυσῆς, κληρονομίαν συναγωγαῖς Ἰακώβ.</td>
</tr>
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2. ... The Lord came from Sinai; He shone upon them from Seir; He appeared from Mount Paran, And approached from Ribeboth-kodesh, Lightning flashing (variant: “a fiery law”) at them from His right. 3. Lover, indeed, of the people, Their hallowed (“all his holy ones”) are all in Your hand. They followed in Your steps, Accepting Your pronouncements, 4. When Moses charged us with the Teaching As the heritage of the congregation of Jacob.

II. Divine Council: Hints of Godhead in the Top Tier

A. Two Yahweh Figures in the Torah

- Michael Hundley, “To Be or Not to Be: A Reexamination of Name Language in Deuteronomy and the Deuteronomistic History,” *VT* 59 (2009): 533-555

See Andersen-Forbes syntactical phrase analysis screenshots of the passages below:
Gen 48:15-16

15 And he blessed Joseph and said, “The God before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked, the God who has been my shepherd all my life long to this day, the angel who has redeemed me from all evil, bless the boys; and in them let my name be carried on, and the name of my fathers Abraham and Isaac; and let them grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth.”

Gen 31:42

42 If the God of my father, the God of Abraham and the Fear of Isaac, had not been on my side, surely now you would have sent me away empty-handed. God saw my affliction and the labor of my hands and rebuked you last night.”

Exod 34:6

6 The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, “The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children’s children, to the third and the fourth generation.”

Psa 68:20-21 (English: vv. 19-20)

19 Blessed be the Lord, who daily bears us up; God is our salvation. Selah

20 Our God is a God of salvation, and to God, the Lord, belong deliverances from death.

B. Co-regency of the Two Yahweh Figures in Israel’s Divine Council

Important studies on divine anthropomorphism:


**Illustration 1:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ugarit Council Hierarchy</th>
<th>Israeliite Council Hierarchy</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 El</td>
<td>YHWH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Ba’al</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Illustration 2**

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<th>Israeliite Council Hierarchy</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 El</td>
<td>“YHWH 1” (invisible)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Ba’al</td>
<td>“YHWH 2” (visible, anthropomorphized)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Specific points of alignment between the second, anthropomorphized Yahweh figure and Ba’al:

1. Ba’al’s status as “lord of the earth (ʾarṣ)”
2. Ba’al’s portrayal as a victorious warrior
3. Ba’al’s enthronement in his house-temple

Genesis 48:15-16